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ALL EARS...

RESIDENTS AIR CONCERNS OVER PROPOSED NATURAL GAS PLANT

— PAGES 8-9 —

PHOTO OF CONCERNED RESIDENTS AT THE AMERICAN LEGION BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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Village council approves ordinance amendment removing limit on marijuana businesses

BY THERESE DONNELLY

A new ordinance amendment removes the limit on marijuana businesses in the Village of Three Oaks, but likely will not greatly impact the number of businesses.

At their Wednesday, Feb. 14, meeting, the Three Oaks Village Council approved an amendment to the marijuana ordinance, removing the cap on number of business licenses available; however, the 500-foot buffer between businesses and village parks, as well as other restrictions, remain, which limits businesses to the US-12 corridor.

In November, councilmembers temporarily halted new marijuana licenses while they reviewed and considered changes to the ordinance. At that time, the village had one open license for a retailer or medical marijuana provisioning center, which several entities had expressed interest in obtaining.

Councilmembers scheduled a special meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28, to discuss the repeal of the previous ordinance.

Later in the meeting, councilmembers also agreed to use the special meeting to discuss new wages for the village clerk. Theresa Schmaltz had submitted her resignation letter in order to accept a new position.

When asked by the council, Schmaltz said that, while she was happy working for the village, the pay was not commensurate with her duties, and she needs to support her family. Schmaltz has been performing many duties for the vacant treasurer's position as well and her own.

Councilmember Becky Thomas noted that Schmaltz's departure would leave the village trying to fill two positions. Schmaltz said she was willing to help on a part-time basis after her resignation.

The council voted to decline to accept the resignation letter and try to reach a more competitive wage.

Councilmembers tabled discussion on drafting an ordinance regarding golf carts on village streets and postponed a resolution on new sewer tap fees as they await the results of a rate study.

Gottfried Hart, co-owner of 6 Linden, a specialty grocery store, addressed the council regarding an application for a tasting room in the back of the building. Hart said the room will be open weekends with reservations and will include pairings with local foods.

Councilmembers gave their support. 6 Linden will still need to obtain a liquor license from the State of Michigan.

Village president Richard Smith announced the village was willing to offer property owner Jodie Haughey $1,800 for sanitary sewer hookup fees. She declined the offer, stating she shouldn't have paid sewer bills for years, as her property was not connected to the village system.

In an update on the project to improve the Hickory Street bridge over the train tracks, Andrew Rudd of Wightman and Associates explained a survey revealed the north approach to the bridge is relatively steep and should be adjusted. In order to do this, he said, the firm will need to obtain a 20-foot temporary easement from adjacent properties while work is performed.

The council approved $4,500 in professional costs related to engaging a right-of-way consultant.

Rudd also reported work is underway to replace sections of the water main. He said once the main has been further examined, engineers will be able to determine a price for the work.

Councilmember Lois Jones reported on the results of a recent workshop on proposed sidewalk repairs and replacements. She said the plan is to set aside $150,000 to $175,000 each year for the project.

The council passed a resolution on the Northeast Alley Project to repair and repave the alley between Central and Maple streets east of Elm Street.

The council appointed Mike Spring to the open seat on the Planning Commission. Smith said Springer is a long-time business owner and has previously served on other village boards.

The council approved a purchase not to exceed $2,500 for seasonal barricades to protect porta potties at Dewey Cannon Park.

Police chief Carl Krause reported to the council the police department is purchasing new Automated External Defibrillators for the office and squad cars. He said the current devices have outlived their life cycles and it is difficult to get replacement batteries and parts.

Krause also said three candidates have interviewed for the officer position with the department, but no one has been selected.

In response to a correspondence requesting the transfer of a short-term rental license to another property with the same owner, councilmembers said the village ordinance does not allow transfers.

Village manager Dan Faulkner informed the council the owner of 4 W. Linden Street has offered the village the first refusal to purchase the property as a possible public parking lot or other use.

The reason why you don't try to make someone else's life happy is because it's an impossible task and it can ruin your life. — *Dino N. Fatouros*

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJESKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday October thru March at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES

MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Presidential Primary scheduled for next week

Michigan's Presidential Primary will take place Tuesday, Feb. 27.

For polling locations within Berrien County, visit berriencounty.org.

Residents of Chikaming Township will be voting on the following ballot proposals for River Valley Schools:

RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its full revenue per pupil foundation allowance and restores millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the "Headlee" amendment to the Michigan Constitution of 1963.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in River Valley School District, Berrien County, Michigan, be renewed by 18.8374 mills ($18.8374 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 8 years, 2025 to 2032, inclusive, and also be increased by 0.5 mill ($0.50 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation), for a period of 8 years, 2025 to 2032, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and 18 mills are levied in 2025 is approximately $10,510,811 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2024 levy and a restoration of millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the "Headlee" amendment to the Michigan Constitution of 1963)?

RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT SINKING FUND MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the building and site sinking fund millage that will expire with the 2024 tax levy.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate of 0.7335 mill ($0.7335 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) which may be assessed against all property in River Valley School District, Berrien County, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 6 years, 2025 to 2030, inclusive, to continue to provide for a sinking fund for the construction or repair of school buildings, for school security improvements, for the acquisition or upgrading of technology, and for all other purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2025 is approximately $726,379 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2024 tax levy)?

Berrien County has entered into a county-wide early voting agreement for 2024 with the cities of Benton Harbor, Bridgman, Buchanan, Coloma, New Buffalo, Niles, St. Joseph, and Watervliet and the townships of Baroda, Berrien, Bertrand Charter, Buchanan Charter, Chikaming, Coloma Charter, Galien, Hagar, Lake Charter, Lincoln Charter, New Buffalo, Niles Charter, Oronoko Charter, Pipestone, Royalton, St. Joseph Charter, Sodus, Three Oaks, Watervliet Charter, and Weesaw. Under the county-wide early voting agreement, the county had two early voting sites, North County and South County, with early voting notices being sent to all registered voters in municipalities participating in the county-wide early voting agreement.

Early Voting Tabulation will begin at 8:01 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, at the Berrien County South County Building located at 1205 N. Front Street in Niles. — STAFF REPORTS

LIBRARY PROGRAM TO EXAMINE HISTORY OF BLACK PLAYERS IN BASEBALL

Garry Lange, founder and curator of Three Oaks' Biggest Little Baseball Museum, will present a program, "Jackie Was the First," on Black players in the sport at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, at the New Buffalo Township Library.

Lange's museum, which is on the second floor of the Three Oaks Township Library, is packed with baseball memorabilia collected over the years. It is open whenever the library is open and there is no admission fee.

"Jackie Was the First" is part of the Friends of the Library's Community Forum. All are welcome to attend and the program is free. — STAFF REPORTS

I've very proud to be mayor of our great city. It's a city with a heart and a soul. Chicago has a unique spirit. Our business community wants to give back. — *Richard M. Daley*

Candidate filing deadlines being enforced

Candidates in the 2024 elections in La Porte County might want to take notice of recent fines leveled against previous candidates under a renewed commitment to enforcing campaign filing deadlines.

The La Porte County Election Board on Friday issued fines totaling around $23,000 to about 30 candidates from 2022 and 2023.

The fines were for missing deadlines to file campaign finance disclosure forms and notices of a campaign committee being formed.

Under Indiana law, La Porte County Clerk Heather Stevens said a county election board must enforce various campaign filing deadlines candidates are required to follow.

Stevens is also one of three election board members.

For some reason, Stevens said there's been no enforcement of filing deadlines over the past decade or so in La Porte County.

Stevens said some of the fines were from candidates in the two previous years not disbanding their campaign committees in writing with the clerk's office after the election.

As a result, Stevens said even if the candidate is no longer running, the campaign committees still legally exist and are subject to a $50 a day penalty for missing the Jan. 17 deadline to file the final campaign finance disclosure forms.

The forms list donors and how campaign money was spent.

"We keep harping and harping and harping to everybody when the election is over come in and disband it. Don't just sit and keep getting hit with these penalties. I think this will be an eye opener," she said.

La Porte County Election Board Deputy Taylor Van Sickle said notices were mailed to the homes of every still delinquent candidate from last year and the previous year 30 days prior to the deadline.

La Porte County Election Board President Brody Shoffner read the state code about the fines county election boards must issue for missing files deadlines before a few grumbling members of the audience.

"I warned everybody last year. I intend on enforcing every bit of that," he said.

Among the people receiving $1,000 fines were former candidate for La Porte County Sheriff in 2022 James D. Arnold.

Lesser fines included an $800 penalty issued to Sean Fitzpatrick, who was reelected last year to the Michigan City Common Council then resigned soon after beginning his second term.

Stevens said all candidates are required to file notices about their campaign committees being formed no later than 10 days after filing their candidacies.

She said April 19 is the deadline for this year's candidates to file the first in a series of campaign finance reports.

Stevens said money from the fines will go into a La Porte County Election Board Account.

A good way to spend some of the funds would be on better educating candidates and their committees about the deadlines and other campaign requirements. —

STAN MADDUX

New Buffalo planners get peek at proposed downtown development

BY FRANCSCA SAGALA

Members of the City of New Buffalo Planning Commission got a first look at a proposed development by the Chicago-based Maverick Hotels and Restaurants that would be located in the long vacant property in downtown New Buffalo Tuesday, Feb. 13.

Through conceptual, computer generated designs, planners learned the development would include 36 Airbnb units and 223 hotel units, with each room being about 450 square feet. There would also be a swimming pool and, going down toward Mechanic Street, a ballroom for weddings and events, with the possibility of an outdoor event space.

One building along Whittaker would be a restaurant, the second one would have a spa. Both the restaurant and spa would have street entrances and be open to the public, with both buildings being two stories.

Peter Green, who was representing Maverick, said that there would be a six-story tower that would span the Mechanic Street side of the property, with a rooftop bar and grill, and another five-story tower.

There would be 288 parking spaces, which Green said would "basically go underground." There would be two levels of parking, with one entrance on Mechanic and another on Thompson.

Maverick built the Sable Hotel, which is located on Navy Pier. The hotel contains Offshore, a bar that has been deemed the "world's largest rooftop bar" by the Guiness Book Of World Records.

"We'd like to think we know a little something about food and beverage and these would be a nice restaurant and nice facilities that could be enjoyed by everybody that's in New Buffalo, both the residents and the guests that come to stay in other hotels and apartments," Green said.

Currently, Green said that the hotel would be independently run.

Planning Commission Chair Paul Billingslea said that the proposed development would be located on a large piece of property with a large asking price.

"It's going to need a lot of development to make something happen - it's not going to be some small thing that goes in there," he said.

Demolition began earlier this month on the unfinished underground parking garage on the Whittaker Street property after the city issued a demolition permit to its owner late last year.

Currently, Green said they haven't contracted with the owner to purchase the property.

One meeting attendee noted that, from ground level to the top of the rooftop bar and grill, the 6-foot tower would be 75 feet and that the city currently has a 35-foot height restriction.

Billingslea said that any development that takes place on the property won't fall under the conventional zoning of the town and that the project would have to be zoned as a separate district.

New Buffalo City Manager Darwin Watson said a project of this magnitude would require a lot of deliberation and meetings.

"This is something that, to his (Billinglea's) point as well, will be outside the norm of the zoning ordinance and what the ultimate question becomes is what is the community comfortable with," he said.

Ben Smock, who owns Hummingbird Lounge, said that either there will be enough parking spots for guests to drive to the hotel and Airbnbs or enough for guests to visit the restaurant.

"But either way you're about half of what is required currently in a town that already has a parking issue...So I think, even if you just the standard calculations that are already in place for restaurants downtown, that number of parking spots is short and then you're adding in 200-plus customers on top of it, he said.

During public comments, former planner Bill McCollum read a letter with regards to Mike Lantis being reappointed to his seat by the city council in December.

McCollum's letter stated that, after over 10 years of serving on commission, he was "abruptly terminated without notice, without knowing what and without the courtesy of a phone call."

He said he was informed of his reappointment via a "boilerplate email" from Watson two hours before the Jan. 9 meeting.

After contacting New Buffalo Mayor John Humphrey, he heard there'd been "questions about why the projects I presented to the Planning Commission were 'always approved.'"

"My colleagues told me the reason my clients' projects were always approved was due to the completeness of my presentation packages including rendering, compliance with the city's codes and zoning requirements and designing the structures in a way that complements the scale of existing structures," McCollum said.

City council discusses proposed lease of ballfield to Recreation Authority

BY THERESE DONNELLY

A proposed lease of a city ballfield to the New Buffalo Area Recreation Authority will need to be decided at a special meeting later this month.

At their Tuesday, Feb. 20 meeting, the New Buffalo City Council discussed the proposal to lease a softball field to the NBARA to help the group to apply for grants to make improvements to the field. Mayor John Humphrey said New Buffalo Area Schools uses the field for softball games, and he felt it should take on some responsibility for the fields.

Other councilmembers expressed concerns regarding the planned sports complex as enrollment numbers continue to decrease and asked if the city would be financially responsible for any grants associated with the project.

City manager Darwin Watson explained the complex was an example of possible future projects, but the lease was the only matter currently before the council.

Councilmember Vance Price, who is also a teacher for NBAS, pointed out the school has tried to get a softball program going but has had trouble retaining a coach and getting students to join.

Councilmember Roger Lijewski said Oselka Park is used for summer sports leagues and is used more by local residents than the beach and other locations the city spends money on.

The deadline for grant applications is April 1 and the council agreed they would need to have a special meeting to further discuss the proposed lease and make a decision.

The council approved a special event application for Le Tour de Shore. The annual bike ride will start in Chicago June 14 and end in downtown New Buffalo June 15. Before voting on the application, Humphrey said in previous years, he had been concerned about the additional traffic in town but had seen no problems from the tour.

R&R Pyrotechnics will provide this year's Independence Day fireworks display. The council approved the Bridgman-based company's bid of $18,000. Watson said R&R's bid was for a July 3 display, with July 4 as a rain date. He said the company the city had previously used was unable to provide a rain date.

Before approving the bid, the council discussed handling the large crowds leaving the beach after the fireworks. Price pointed out in 2023 the council had questioned if the city should continue hosting fireworks. Councilmember Mark Robertson said he was in favor of continuing the fireworks, but felt the city needed to continue to consider the size of crowds and their behavior.

Kona Dunes will continue to have the beach concession contract through 2025. In a proposal approved by the council, Kona will pay the city $3500 in 2024 and $4000 in 2025 to operate Tuesday through Sunday from the weekend before Memorial Day until the second weekend of August, and weekends through Labor Day. A vending machine will also be available outside of operating hours.

The council voted to decertify a portion of Thompson Street. Watson explained the portion in question is used as the driveway into the city street department garage on Jefferson Street but still appears as a street on official maps. By decertifying the 100-foot portion of the street, the city ensures the driveway is not counted as a state roadway.

New Buffalo Yacht Club has requested recognition from the city of its non-profit status, so they can apply for a charitable gaming license from the State of Michigan. NBYC Treasurer Brian Campbell explained the club has 501(C)(7) status, which allows it to apply for a charitable gaming license to hold gambling events throughout the year.

The council said they wanted more information before voting. Humphrey said he was concerned the club receiving a license would set a precedence allowing other groups to obtain a similar license. He suggested finding an arrangement where NBYC donates a portion of gaming proceeds to a local charitable group.

Speaking from the audience, Deb Schmidt told the council NBYC had recently made a large donation to Bridge the Gap to provide free meals to local children during school breaks.

On Humphrey's recommendation, the council voted to appoint Chad Barclay to fill a vacant seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

In a separate discussion with the council, Humphrey recommended setting a policy of notifying board members when their terms are coming to an end so they can choose if they want to continue to attend meetings while an appointment choice is made.

As part of new state requirements, the city will engage consultants to review the site of the planned broadside dock for historic and prehistoric remains. Based on recommendations from a tribal representative, Wightman and Associate recommended the city use Orbis Environmental Consulting to perform an archeological review of the site, and KYK9 Search Dogs to search for signs of human remains.

As part of plans to fund the South Whittaker Street parking project, the council gave the ok to submit an application for a USDA Rural Business Development grant to help fund design work. Watson said the city was not required to provide matching funds if approved for this grant.

The council also approved Arnt Asphalt's bid of $29,750 for repairs and restriping at the beach and the boat launch parking lots.

In 2022, the parks department received an ATV previously used by the city police department. Watson told the council the vehicle needs to be replaced and Zeigler Motor Sports had quoted $14,234.50 for a new ATV. The council approved the purchase and the old ATV will be auctioned off, along with other equipment.

The council voted to purchase a new plow for the street department's truck from Weaver Outdoors for $8,913.10.

The council had a second reading to repeal Article XIII of Chapter 2, amend Article I of Chapter 7, Article II of Chapter 14 and a first reading of and ordinance to amend Chapter 5, article 6 in the Code of Ordinances. By making these changes, the council will disestablish the parks and harbor commission and re-establish the harbor commission and the parks board as two separate entities.

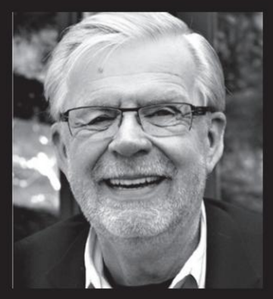
In order to continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, the council voted to adopt new flood insurance rate maps issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FERMA).

Prior to adjournment, Humphrey said the council is working to come up with a long-term rental inspection fee that is not punitive to larger apartment buildin

SPORTS

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO



This is one of the weeks that all sportswriters dread. Football is over, baseball has yet to begin, basketball is on a break for the all star game, and hockey is nowhere near playoff time.

Baseball news is full of predictions for the coming season, what teams will finally pursue the remaining free agents, and what trades might happen before opening day. Football news is about the same, free agency, trades, and countless mock drafts, all trying to figure out how each teams general manager is thinking. I wonder if any mock drafts have ever been even remotely close to reality. Anyway, when things actually happen on the baseball and football fields, we'll talk about it then.

Meanwhile, on other fronts, a 13-year-old girl, McKenna "Mak" Whitham, signed an NIL (Name, Image, and Likeness) contract with Nike, becoming the youngest athlete in any sport to sign with them.

Mak, a soccer prodigy from Southern California, is home schooled, so she plays on club teams with and against older girls, and more than holds her own.

Speaking of women who completely hold their own, Caitlin Clark broke the women's collegiate scoring record with a ridiculous 3 point shot. Caitlin is truly a great ball player and she seems to be as good a shooter as Stephen Curry. Female sports are getting more and more popular and the players are becoming better and better. "The times, they are a changing."

On the PGA tour, Hideki Matsuyama won the Genesis Invitational in a tournament that also featured Tiger Woods having to drop out in the second round due to illness, and Jordan Spieth being disqualified for signing an incorrect scorecard. Woods has not finished a tournament in a year due to various injuries and maladies and the odds of him winning a tournament, much less finishing one, are getting very long.

The Daytona 500 was supposed to take place Sunday, but bad weather postponed the event. The race organizers decided to call off NASCAR's season opener hours before the race was scheduled to begin so that the fans didn't have to sit through a series of delays. The tailgaters got to party and the rest of the fans could be inside and dry. The race tool place on Monday.

College basketball is still a few weeks away from selection Sunday where the teams who will participate in the playoffs will be chosen. An interesting thing happened this week. The newest poll had Purdue ranked first and they seemed to sleepwalk their way through a loss to Ohio State. On the other hand, Connecticut was disappointed to be ranked second and they ended up crushing a good Marquette team. Pretty amazing what a little incentive can do for a team.

Richard M. DeVos said, "Few things in the world are more powerful than a positive push. A smile. A world of optimism and hope. A 'you can do it' when things are tough."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

Back to winning for Bison in boys' basketball

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School boys' basketball team got back on the winning track at Countryside Academy.

The 73-70 victory Thursday, Feb. 15, broke a three-game losing streak against solid opposition.

M'Nason Smothers, a 5'7" junior, continued to shine in what's traditionally a position reserved for much taller players.

Head Coach Nate Tripp has him playing close to the rim with 6' 3" center Lucas Forker on offense and defense because of his extraordinary leaping ability.

Smothers scored 28 points all from inside the driving lane and grabbed eight rebounds.

"He's a kid that progressively throughout the season has gotten better and better and better. He's definitely a focal point for us now," Tripp said.

The Bison (10-10) went into halftime with a 13 point lead.

However, Countryside Academy came roaring back in the fourth quarter on the hot shooting of Isaiah Woods, who finished with 46 points.

Tripp said Woods was often double teamed but nothing worked to slow his fast paced scoring late in the game.

"He was just chucking up everything and it went in," Tripp said.

The Cougars (3-12) pulled to within five points with just seconds to go in the game then hit lay-up before the buzzer.

Sophomore James Shaw scored 16 points and made seven of his nine shots from the floor.

He was also a factor at the other end of the court.

"He just did a really great job defensively," Tripp said.

The Bison defeated the Cougars by six points at on January 24.

On February 13, New Buffalo was defeated 47-31 at Michigan Lutheran.

The Titans (15-6) used their height advantage and zone defense to cause the Bison to struggle especially on offense.

New Buffalo shot just 29 percent from the floor and committed 30 turnovers.

Tripp said the game was still competitive, though, despite the poor shooting and unusual amount of mistakes by his players.

He said the goal was to limit for the scoring for the Titans in the low 40s.

"We gave up a little bit too many points and we didn't score enough," he said.

Smothers led the Bison with nine points followed by Forker with eight points.

Michigan Lutheran defeated New Buffalo 73-48 Dec. 5 when the Bison were in the midst of losing six of their first seven games.

Tripp is hoping his much improved squad will get another shot at Michigan Lutheran in the upcoming District 4 tournament hosted by New Buffalo High School.

The Bison and Cougars play in the first round.

The winner advances to the second round against Michigan Lutheran, which drew a first round bye.

The one exclusive sign of thorough knowledge is the power of teaching.
— Aristotle

Butch Frey and Elise Ferguson of Archaea Energy outline the project

An Archaea Modular Design RNG plant in Medora, Indiana, which is located next to a landfill owned by Rumpke Waste and Recycling

Residents air concerns over proposed natural gas plant

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Concerned residents made their voices heard about a proposed natural gas plant in Three Oaks Township at a packed, over two-hour public hearing held by the Three Oaks Township Planning Commission at Three Oaks American Legion Post 204 Tuesday, Feb. 20.

Forest Lawn Landfill, Inc., is requesting a special land use (SLU) permit to allow for a renewable natural gas (RNG) plant in an Agricultural-Rural Residential District at South Basswood Road in the township.

Per a handout, the BP-acquired Archaea Energy, Inc. is proposing the development of an RNG facility to process landfill gas being produced by the neighboring Republic Services Landfill for commercial use.

Per the handout, RNG is "produced from the methane emitted during decomposition of organic waste, including garbage from landfills."

"Landfill gas containing methane, CO2, and other impurities goes through a multi-step process using specialized cleaning and conditioning equipment to become pipeline-quality RNG," the handout stated.

"Our process is to safely remove all the other stuff - carbon dioxide, nitrogen, H2S - and make a usable product out of it that you can use to heat your house or however natural gas is used," Elise Ferguson, director of RNG project development at Archaea, said.

Since last May, Archaea has been working with the county, submitting the permits to show the initial site development, EGLE for issues related to wetlands and stream impacts and with the county for the water and sewer approval for the small office that will be onsite.

Permits have been approved for all of the above items.

Close to $10 million locally will be spent on construction costs, with the use of local vendors. With regards to construction, over 70 people will be employed.

The total project area is approximately 7.6 acres and would be accessed by a driveway off South Basswood Road. A flare would be located to the north end of an open-air concrete pad, where the RNG processing equipment would be located, and access road.

Archaea would be leasing the property for 20 years from Republic, which owns the landfill.

It was stated that Archaea has several active plants across the country.

Representatives stated that money isn't made off the projects for a couple of years and accurate estimates can't be given because natural gas fluctuates on the market.

Concerns from residents ranged from the facility's environmental and health impacts of the area as well as the noise level and lack of communication over the proposed project.

Butch Frey, who handles external affairs for the Midwest for Archaea Energy, said that the proposed plant would take 11,000 tons of methane out of the local air as well as 27,000 tons of carbon dioxide.

"This is equivalent to over 300,000 acres of forest, it's equivalent to emissions reduced from 700,000 barrels of oil and over 35 million gallons of gas," he said.

Ferguson said that they've hired a company, Douglas, which has reached out to some neighbors to discuss acquiring right of way for a pipeline that Douglas will build that will go to a transmission line.

Megan Crowley, area environmental manager for Republic Services, said that when "this gas goes into the interconnect, it merges with all the other natural gas in that pipeline," so that it all becomes one source.

The pipeline's path hasn't yet been developed, she said.

The gas will be put into the pipeline, which will then be sold on the open market.

"So it goes in our pipeline and generally goes to a distributor and it goes somewhere else on the market; however, some of that gas can be used locally if it's sold locally," he said.

The facility won't be built until the pipeline is in place. If everything gets approved, the plant could be online in November.

There were concerns over possible plummeting property values, with one resident saying that they bought their home "knowing the landfill is going to close within five years (it closed in 2017)."

"Now, you want to put this up after we built our life here with our children so now our property values are going to go down because you want to make money," she said.

It was stated that Archaea typically doesn't compensate landowners;" however, there would be compensation around the pipeline.

Megan Crowley, area environmental manager for Republic Services, addresses the crowd

One resident was concerned that the pipeline will be going through the wetlands. A representative who manages EGLE's material management division said that permits will need to be obtained and reviewed and a process like the one that's being gone through with the whole project will need to be followed for anything that goes through the wetland.

Residents were concerned about the noise that may be generated from the plant, possibly all day and every day, on the property site and a mile away. No sound studies have been completed yet, although a current study is being completed at an identical facility in another location.

Concerns were also expressed over tree removal and the overall landscape, lighting and traffic.

"When you look at things of nuisance levels of noise, light, traffic, etc. that are not harmonious with the district it's in - then you can't grant the special land use," one resident said.

Regarding a resident's concerns over possible health issues that could occur for those who live around the area, it was stated that, since the facilities are fairly new technology, nothing is known long term regarding health issues.

Julie Sittig, who has a wood tree farm along Martin Road to Sittig Road, was concerned about a possible substation going up at Sittig and Martin roads and asked if the proposed project was going to feed into it. Ferguson said Archaea isn't aware of a substation and that AEP doesn't usually share what they're doing to support a project.

Noting that they're not an "industrial type of area," Sittig said that Three Oaks is a recreational area that prides itself on its wildlife that roams free "in abundance," adding that they tried for 20 years to get the landfill closed.

"We have bed and breakfasts...We're a cultural (area) and also music, the arts - I'm very sorry, but an industrial complex the size of a football field does not belong out next to our wood farm," she said.

The Planning Commission had received several emails and letters regarding the proposed project.

Chris Mitchell, the township board representative on the Planning Commission, said that, on the advice of their attorneys, they would adjourn the meeting to digest the feedback.

Another required public hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 26, which will be noticed in the paper.

"We have a whole lot of information we have received from you people and a lot of concerns and we will find answers to this," he said, speaking for the commission.

Mayor unfazed by opposition to new chief by officers

BY STAN MADDUX

La Porte Mayor Tom Dermody during the city council meeting Tuesday, Feb. 20, reaffirmed the new police chief opposed by officers is here to stay.

The La Porte Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 54 could still legally challenge the mayor's decision to appoint Dick Buell as police chief on February 5 because he came from outside the department.

The FOP said the mayor violated local code, which requires a police chief be selected from within the department.

"The message conveyed by Mayor Dermody to our department, community and surrounding agencies with this decision is that we have no one fit to lead from within our ranks and the local codes that we are asked to enforce do not apply to Mayor Tom Dermody," the FOP stated in its letter.

However, La Porte City Attorney Nick Otis told the standing room only crowd at City Hall that a change in state law in 1996 upheld by the Indiana Attorney General's Office in 2005 allows mayors to choose police chiefs from outside the department.

Therefore, Otis said the local ordinance adopted in the 1980's was no longer valid.

"The legislature has clearly spoken," he said.

However, La Porte Police Officer Robert Metcalf speaking at the meeting on behalf of the FOP said there are other attorneys who agree with their position on the matter.

"As of right now with this being a fluid situation we don't know legally where we're going to be at 24, 48, a week, two weeks from now," he said.

Buell, 70, came out of retirement to accept the offer from Dermody, who praised his 30 years of law enforcement experience as "second to none."

Dermody also said his "old school" approach and ability to be a "strong leader" are needed the most to develop future leaders out of officers so they're capable of later running what's now a young department well into the future.

Buell spent five years with the La Porte Police Department before moving on to the La Porte County Sheriff's Office, where he served in various capacities such as Chief of Detectives and Jail Commander.

He was director of La Porte County Community Corrections when he retired in 2019.

Before the city council meeting, the FOP in a letter announced officers would only recognize newly appointed Assistant Police Chief Matthew Drangmeister, who was chosen from the ranks.

The FOP also said officers would not recognize Buell and called upon the mayor to select another chief.

In response, Dermody said officers failing to listen to Buell would be dealt with on grounds of insubordination.

Dermody also said some of the complaints are from officers not liking the more disciplined approach Buell has brought to the department.

"Because Dick Buell says you're going to shine your shoes, you're going to square your uniform, you're going to get out of your car and meet with residents and meet with business owners. This is the new standard that we owe the entire department," he said.

Some residents also pointed to the age of Buell for opposing his appointment.

"No offense. You should retire. Just go and enjoy your grandchildren," said Emily Robben, who resides on Truesdell Avenue.

Letting the good times roll at American Legion Mardi Gras

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

After a three-year hiatus, the annual Mardi Gras fundraiser made a grand return to the Three Oaks American Legion Post 204 Saturday, Feb. 17.

"It was a huge success before - this is obviously the first year since Covid and I think it's already proven to be successful," Dyann Thomas-Niemzyk, who co-chaired the event with Brandi Hamman, said.

Guests, who came decked out in colorful beads, feathery boas and glittery masks, congregated at tables in a candle-lit room for a cocktail hour before digging into a spread of Cajun cuisine - gumbo, jambalaya, etouffee, fried catfish with a creole tartar, Cajun cornbread, fried okra and Cajun seafood ciders.

Before the meal, guests could view a variety of silent auction items, which included original artwork, a golf package to Lost Dunes Golf Club in Bridgman and a pizza party at the barn of Shelley Young, the founder/head chef of the Chopping Block in Chicago.

There was also a photo booth, where guests could don more fun costumes for an impromptu picture. Later in the evening, local band the Chicken Dolphin Band took the stage.

Guests were partying for a good cause: All funds raised from ticket sales, the silent auction and drinks went toward remodeling the legion's kitchen to better serve veterans and the community.

Guests enjoy a spread of Cajun cuisine

Chicken Dolphin Band takes the stage

Mya Thomas plays the bongo for the Chicken Dolphin Band

Derek Dudiak and Candice Cooney are decked out for the festivities

Mr. Three Oaks DJ Freehling | with Miss Three Oaks Mya Thomas

Guests sit at candle lit tables

Guests view the silent auction items

Barabra Wittersheim, Judith and Pete Raziunas, Lisa and Tom Derken and Debra McGrath enjoy the festivities

Dyann Thomas-Niemzyk, Brandi Hamman and chef Matt Lindsay

June and Steve Shotsberger with Vickie Clock and Shann Walburn

Vannessa Thun, Traci Lauricella, Katha Kissman, Tracy Ripley and Barbara Coffman

Rich and Meg Killips enjoy traditional Cajun cuisine

Guests dance to the Chicken Dolphin Band

Thomas-Niemzyk said that members of the legion's auxiliary volunteer their time to serve about 25 meals every month to local veterans. Volunteers bring meals on a quarterly basis to The Robert L. Miller Sr. Veterans Center, which is a homeless shelter for veterans in South Bend.

Auxiliary members also put on an annual Veterans Day turkey dinner.

"So our big thing has been just raising money to build a new kitchen to better serve our veterans, community and hometown heroes," Hammon said.

Chef Matt Lindsay, the husband of Hamann, was more than happy to put his chef's hat back on after retiring from working in kitchens at various restaurants for just under 20 years.

"I have four to five people back there (in the kitchen) - we've been here all week prepping a few hours a day, getting it done," he said, adding that the crew of volunteers contained some whom he's worked with at different restaurants.

Hamman said that they're grateful for the small, but mighty, team of volunteers that brought the fundraiser back to life.

"Everybody kind of peppered in and helped where they could, what their talents were - it was definitely a group effort," she said.

Film group to screen documentary about Gwendolyn Brooks Memorial

Filmmaker Rana Segal and sculptor Margo McMahon will join the Harbor Country Film Group for a screening and discussion of Segal's 2018 documentary, "The Oracle of Bronzeville: The Making of the Gwendolyn Brooks Monument,"at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 2, at New Buffalo Township Library, located at 33 N. Thompson Street in downtown New Buffalo.

The film follows the creation of a statue sculpted by McMahon in tribute to Brooks, and placed in a Chicago park.

"This screening, in celebration of Women's History Month, will have us consider the work of three outstanding women artists: the poet, the sculptor and the filmmaker," said film group leader Eve Moran. "Segal's own unique process interweaves the story of Gwendolyn Brooks—who she was, the importance of her writing and her influence on American culture."

Admission is free and open to all, and free popcorn will be served. The Harbor Country Film Group is sponsored by the Friends of the New Buffalo Library. — STAFF REPORTS

An online auction benefit for Michiana Humane Society

CABIN FEVER PAWCTION

The Michiana Humane Society is thrilled to announce its fourth annual Cabin Fever Pawction, an online auction to support the care of its beloved shelter pets.

The Cabin Fever Pawction is more than an auction - it's a testament to our community's compassionate spirit and a critical source of support for our shelter pets. Taking place from March 4-10, this year's auction will showcase a diverse array of unique experiences, items and services. A preview of the items will be viewable starting March 1.

Auction items will include one-of-a-kind experiences, vacation getaways, pet-friendly and kid-friendly items, massage and spa services, live performance and sporting tickets, home and garden items and much more.

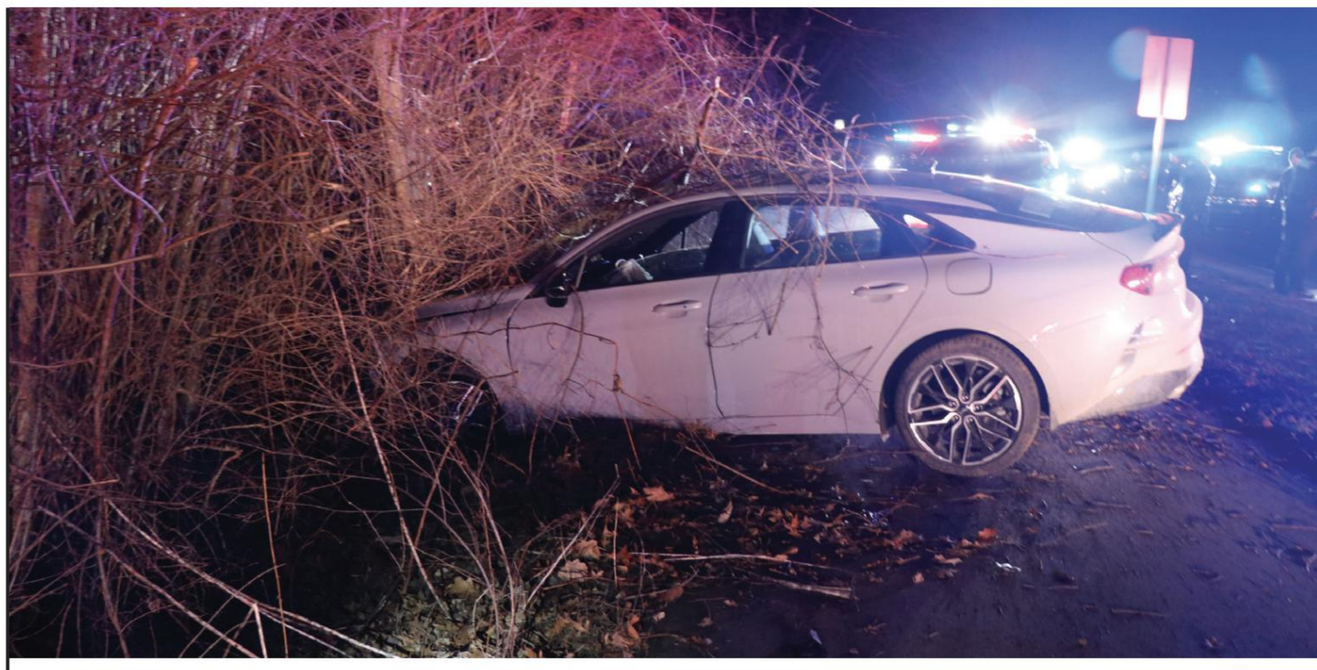
"We love that this fundraiser has something for everyone. Our supporters can bid on a $25 gift card to their favorite local restaurant or 5-night vacation stay," Heidi Treacy Tuthill, MHS development director said.

All items have been generously donated by businesses and individuals, so 100% of the winning bids will help the shelter pets.

Dollars raised from the auction will fund the care and adoption of the shelter pets at Michiana Humane Society.

Michiana Humane Society is a nonprofit organization serving pets and the people who love them in La Porte and Berrien counties and beyond. The MHS team cares for nearly 1,000 pets each year and more than 97% of them get their second chances with loving families.

For more information about the auction visit www.michianapets.org/events or call 219-872-4499. — STAFF REPORTS



Man arrested after leading police on chase from Holland to Chikaming

An Indiana man who was wanted for several charges was arrested after leading police on a chase from Holland, Michigan, to Chikaming Township.

According to a press release made by Berrien County Undersheriff Greg Sanders, at 5:15 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 18, officers in Berrien County were alerted to a gray Kia that fled from officers in and around Holland.

The driver of the vehicle, 36-year-old Matthew Lee Mensch, from Coatesville, Indiana, was wanted for a number of charges, including aggravated stalking, conditional bond violation and fleeing from police.

Minutes later, deputies took over the chase when an officer from Covert Township police pursued the fleeing Kia into Berrien County.

"The driver drove recklessly through Berrien County southbound on M-63, including speeding, disregarding traffic control devices and driving into the lane of oncoming traffic," the release stated.

Despite an officer from Coloma Township deploying stop sticks and flattening one tire, the fleeing driver continued.

The chase continued southbound through St Joseph, Stevensville and Bridgman.

After a deputy deployed more stop sticks and flattened two more tires on the fleeing Kia, Mensch drove off the road and crashed in Chikaming Township. No one else was injured from the crash.

After being arrested and checked out by Medic 1 personnel at the scene of the crash, Mensch was taken to Corewell Lakeland hospital as part of the OWI investigation and to be checked out further.

"During the transport to the hospital, the driver damaged the deputy's patrol vehicle while attempting to assault the arresting deputy," the release stated.

After his release from Corewell Lakeland hospital, Mensch was lodged at the Berrien County Jail.

He faces a number of charges in Berrien and Ottawa Counties, with the release stating that the "charges are merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty."

Agencies Involved were Berrien County Sheriff Office, Covert Twp. Police, Holland Police, Van Buren County Sheriff's Office, Coloma Township Police, Ottawa County Sheriff's Office, Benton Harbor Police and Medic 1 Ambulance. — STAFF REPORTS

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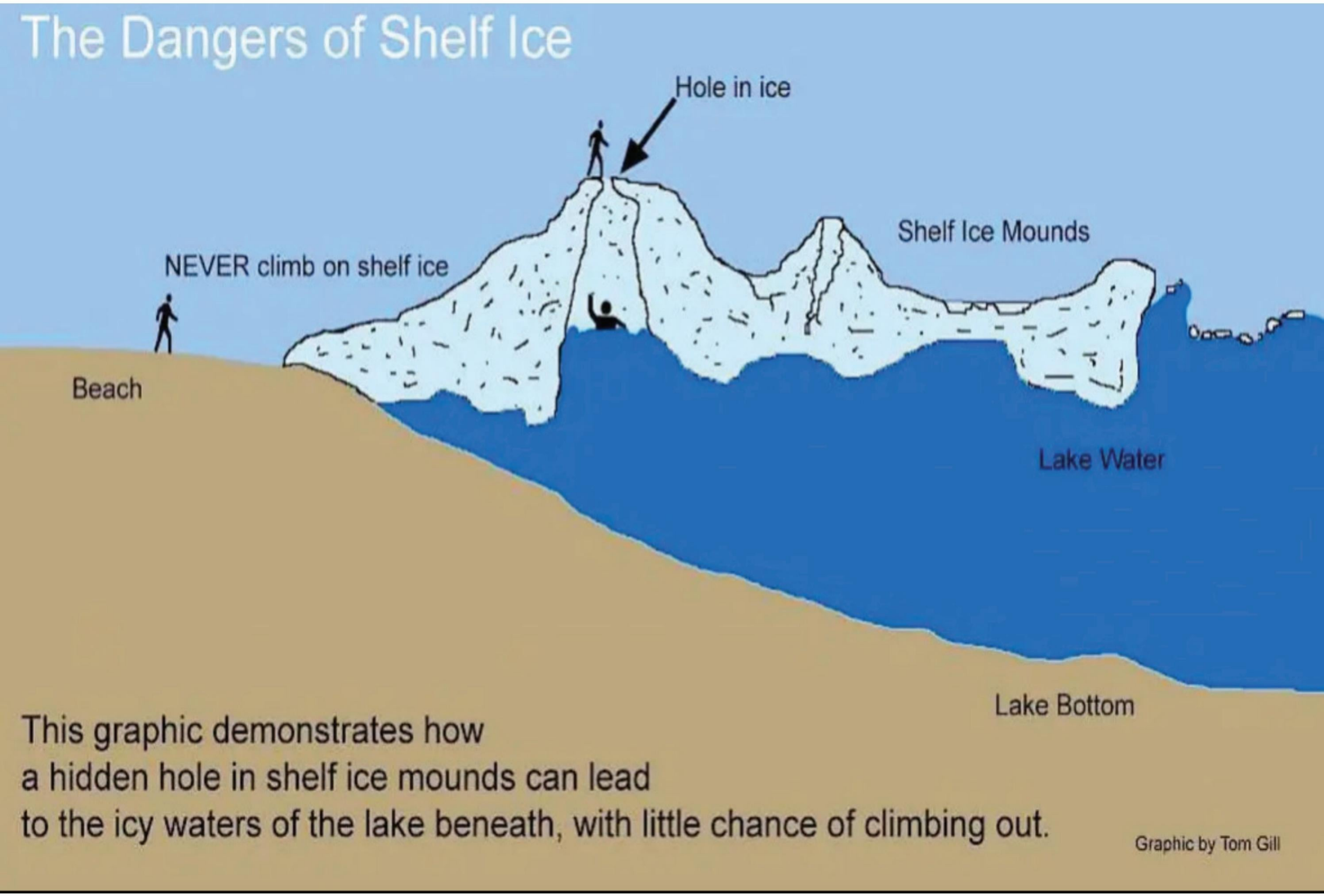


This graphic demonstrates how
a hidden hole in shelf ice mounds can lead
to the icy waters of the lake beneath, with little chance of climbing out.

Graphic by Tom Gill

Area chambers, Berrien RESA, Lake Michigan College unveil new partnership to build regional workforce

A new, innovative partnership that was unveiled at the Annual Meeting and Business Recognition Awards of the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber of Commerce last week will aim to solve the issue of cultivating and retaining workforce talent in Southwest Michigan, the state and Berrien County.

According to a press release, the Berrien Talent Collaborative is a partnership between Berrien RESA, Lake Michigan College, the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce. The group represents an employer-led initiative for high school students that merges the area's education and job development resources to create a sustained pool of skilled workers through a registered apprenticeship program. It's the first county-wide effort on apprenticeships in Michigan.

Labor shortage concerns resonate with Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber CEO and President Arthur Havlicek, who highlighted the impact on member businesses at his annual meeting. In his remarks, Havlicek emphasized the need for students to recognize high-paying job opportunities exist in our community and comprehensive training is available locally.

"The number one thing we hear from members is they cannot find the skilled labor they need to operate, much less grow," said Havlicek. "Our counter is to create a county-wide talent supply chain that aligns education with business, up-skills available talent, and then connects that talent to meaningful, high-wage careers right here in Southwest Michigan."

"The Berrien Talent Collaborative will work to reduce vacancies in the local workforce by providing sustainable talent, which will help our communities grow and flourish," Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Ryan Boeskool added.

According to the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, the labor force in Berrien County remains more than 2,600 workers short of pre-pandemic levels.

In 2023, education, business and chamber leaders met to discuss the Berrien County talent shortage. Data revealed that just 40 percent of the 2022 high school graduating class in Berrien County went on to college or a trade school. It's estimated that only 30 percent of those students will complete two or more years in their chosen program, leaving a massive gap of untapped talent.

"It's about creating a pathway to opportunity, matching employers and students, and building out a system leading to highly skilled talent," Berrien RESA Superintendent Dr. Eric Hoppstock said. "The Berrien Talent Collaborative will work directly with employers to help them navigate the paperwork and standards of having a registered apprentice. We have had several productive meetings with state officials about eliminating red tape and making it easier for employers and community groups."

One of the first moves of the partnership was the donation by Lake Michigan College of its Niles Campus to the Berrien RESA. That building, now named the Berrien Innovation Center, houses Career & Technical Education courses and select college courses. Lake Michigan College's Main Campus in Benton Harbor and the Hanson Technology Center are also available to K-12 districts.

"This is about aligning resources in our community to help our communities and businesses thrive and grow," Lake Michigan College President Dr. Trevor Kubatzke said. "Students and parents are concerned about debt and finding the right opportunity. It's why Lake Michigan College is offering free tuition to our graduating classes, and we realize it's not just about college degrees, but about short-term certificates, specialized training, and getting business and education working together and talking the same language."

The announcement took place at LMC's Grand Upton Hall during the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting, with over 600 employers and community leaders in attendance. Additional meetings are being planned for all parts of Berrien County.

The Berrien Talent Collaborative will also work with other community groups, workforce developers like Kinexus Group, non-profits, trade associations and unions to ensure all employment sectors have access to the model.

For more information on the Berrien Talent Collaborative, visit www.berrientalent.org. — STAFF REPORTS

Impaired driver nabbed in two county chase

BY STAN MADDUX

A driver claiming he fled from La Porte County Police to celebrate his birthday was found to be allegedly impaired.

Christopher Orozco, 41, of South Bend is charged in La Porte Circuit Court with operating while intoxicated and reckless driving.

According to police, Orozco fled when an officer tried pulling him over for speeding and erratic driving in the area of Indiana 2 and 300 East near Rolling Prairie.

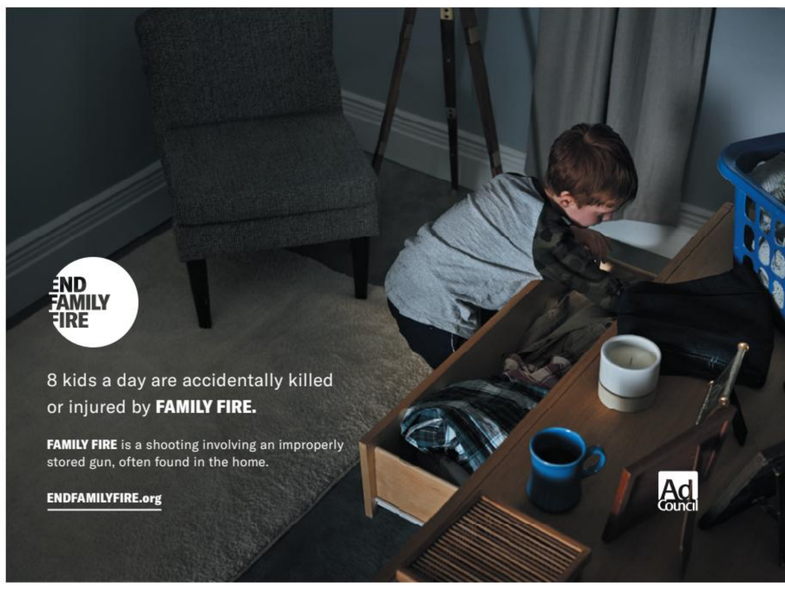
Police said his speed varied from 30 mph to 85 mph during the entire pursuit, which ended when stop sticks flattened at least one of his tires on Indiana 2 near Willow Road in St. Joseph County.

A bottle of liquor in his lap fell onto the pavement when Orozco stepped out of the vehicle, police said.

According to police, Orozco told the officer he fled because it was birthday and he wanted to go on a "joyride."

He allegedly refused a certified breathalyzer test, which is grounds for automatic filing of OWI charges in Indiana.

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —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AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Be aware that with every chore or project this week, there will be a lot of details to attend to. It will be easy to have your head swimming in so many intricate or hard to find parts. When things get hectic, try to see things from above. Get a higher perspective and the pieces will fall into place.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Love and romantic situations could get sticky this week. Create a healing cycle of trust and communication and put your inner child in it. Love and honor yourself above all else. Create firm boundaries and then make the moves to incorporate others into your inner circle.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

This is not the time to jump ship. Stick with the plans and follow through. It may be a hectic and bumpy ride, with no end in sight but that doesn't mean things won't eventually even out. Realize this is just part of a larger journey and you are merely at a climatic point.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

If things start to get heavy or argumentative when communicating, take a break and move to higher ground. Put yourself in the position where you can lookout over a large area and breathe. Perhaps this will help you see beyond cyclical problems and see the true source of the issue.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Enjoy the work that you do and be proud of your accomplishments but don't profit off of other people's enviousness or strive for validation that is outside of yourself. Rise above the need for anyone other than yourself to endorse or authorize what you do and who you are.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

This may be a time, when you need to step back from partnerships and look at the larger reason you decided to collaborate with them. Release the need to understand all the intricacies and move towards what the end result will be if you stay invested. Let that be your deciding factor or motivation.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

The vibe coming your way this week will highlight repetitive cycles or reoccurring problems. Rather than approaching the situation in the usual way, pull back and detach. Refrain from harsh judgments. Use space and silence to rise above the emotional or mental underpinnings first.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

There is a very playful energy coming in this week but be aware that sometimes people can take playtime too far and someone ends up getting hurt. Be sure to treat people with kindness and don't push the joking too far. Pay attention to nonverbal cues and know when to stop.

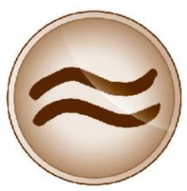
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Take the time to rise above current issues or problems and see the larger cycle that you may be caught up in. Don't get caught up in another spin of the wheel by taking an objective view of the situation and honestly realizing where you are at in the cycle. Move to the exit and push for that ending.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

Remove yourself from cycles that continue but don't produce results. Be like the eagle and soar above petty issues. Get to the heart of the problem by looking at the bigger picture. You may be lost in the details, investigating and researching things that aren't even applicable.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Understand that what comes around goes around and you would be wise to honor yourself and be rooted in a place of integrity. Reign in the need to play games or get validation by putting others down. Because when it comes time to be on the receiving end of things, you will be rewarded.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

Deal with differences or uncomfortable topics with humor and a lighthearted attitude. Don't take things too seriously when talking about your personal opinions or when people express theirs. It's important to let others think and feel what they want without feeling responsible for them.

The best of healers is good cheer.
— Pindar

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

				6	4			
	9	3						
		6	9		2			
3				5				
4					9	6		7
	7		2			8		
					6	5		
				3	8	4		
		4			5	7		9

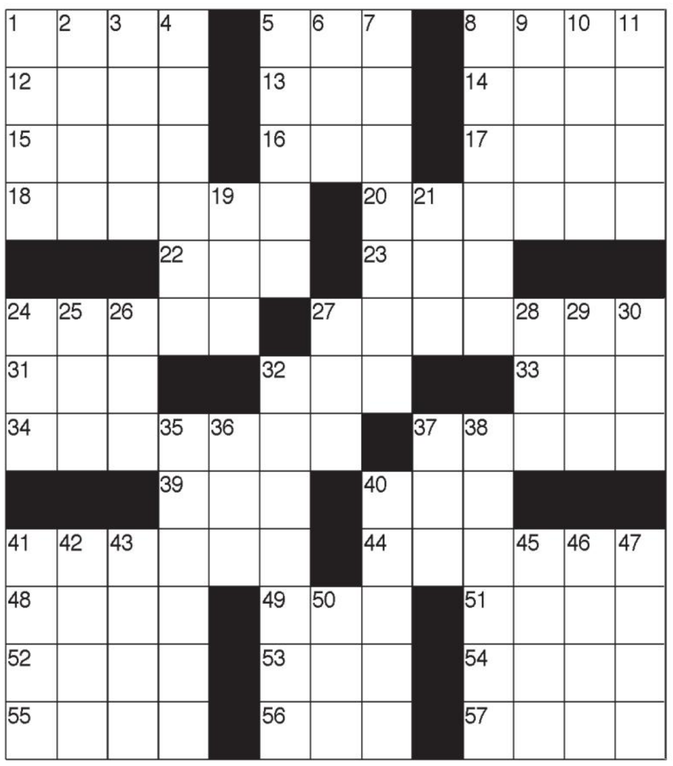
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Scan
5 Youngster
8 Run
12 Wine (pref.)
13 One hundred square meters
14 Eject
15 Mine entrance
16 Eth. title
17 Earth
18 Foam
20 Gore
22 Teacher of Samuel
23 Cool
24 Lemur
27 Son of Abraham
31 Orinoco tributary
32 Have (Scot.)
33 Epoch
34 Born
37 Saw
39 Swed. county
40 Island (Fr.)
41 1st incarnation of Vishnu
44 Haw. island
48 Anatomy (abbr.)
49 Edible seed
51 Principal
52 Quality (suf.)
53 Belonging to (suf.)
54 Work (Sp.)
55 Womb (pref.)
56 Regret
57 Blind cetacean

DOWN

1 Young horse
2 Mother of Castor
3 Initial (abbr.)
4 Worry
5 Austral. gum tree
6 Irish rebel group
7 Abhor
8 Ransom
9 Afghan title
10 Circular (abbr.)
11 Diminutive (suf.)
19 Yale student
21 I (Ger.)
24 John, Gaelic
25 "Blue Eagle"
26 Department of Transportation (abbr.)
27 Adjective-forming (suf.)
28 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
29 Ovum
30 Civil War commander
32 Wicker box
35 Overcoat
36 Beam
37 Muslim fourth caliph
38 Moon of Mars
40 Banal
41 Lady's title
42 Patron saint of Quebec
43 Diplomacy
45 Ryukyu islands viper
46 Pretensions
47 Two-toed sloth
50 Water (Fr.)



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NO BULLYING SCHOOLS

NO BULLYING SCHOOLS PRESENTATION

- ***Where: New Buffalo Middle/High School Cafeteria***
- ***When: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m. Following the NBAS Empty Bowls event.***
- ***Tom Thelen (more info below)***

WHO IS TOM THELEN??

- ***Speaker at 800+ schools since 2012***
- ***Lead Author of Mental Health 101***
- ***Founder of Nonprofit, Reset Schools***
- ***Certified Trainer in "Mental Health First Aid," a program from the National Council for Mental Wellbeing***
- ***Lives in Cocoa, Florida, with his wife Casie, four kids, and a dog.***

Tom Thelen is one of America's top motivational speakers on the topics of mental health and bullying prevention. His new book, Mental Health 101 for Teens, is an Amazon #1 Release.

Tom has spoken at over 800 schools and conferences and has been interviewed on NBC, CBS, FOX, and PBS. Tom is a Certified Instructor in Youth Mental Health First Aid, a training program by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing.

As the founder of the nonprofit RESETSCHOOLS.ORG Tom and his team created the award-winning Mental Health 101 Book and Curriculum, a program that teaches students positive skills like respect, responsibility, and resiliency, as well as coping skills for stress and anxiety.

Tom is the founder of NOBULLYINGSCHOOLS.COM an evidence-based bullying prevention program with a smartphone app and video lessons on the topics of bullying, mental health, social skills, and resiliency.

Tom graduated from Grace University with a Bachelor of Science degree and went on to write three books for students including Teen Leadership Revolution, Victimproof, and Mental Health 101 for Teens.

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Healing happenings at Goldberry

Goldberry Woods' first Marma in the Barn experience of 2024 occurred Wednesday morning, Feb 14, the first of many new Yogic and Ayurvedic experiences free to guests and open to the public. Marma in the barn was an experience that was just right for Valentine's Day and enjoyed by those in attendance.

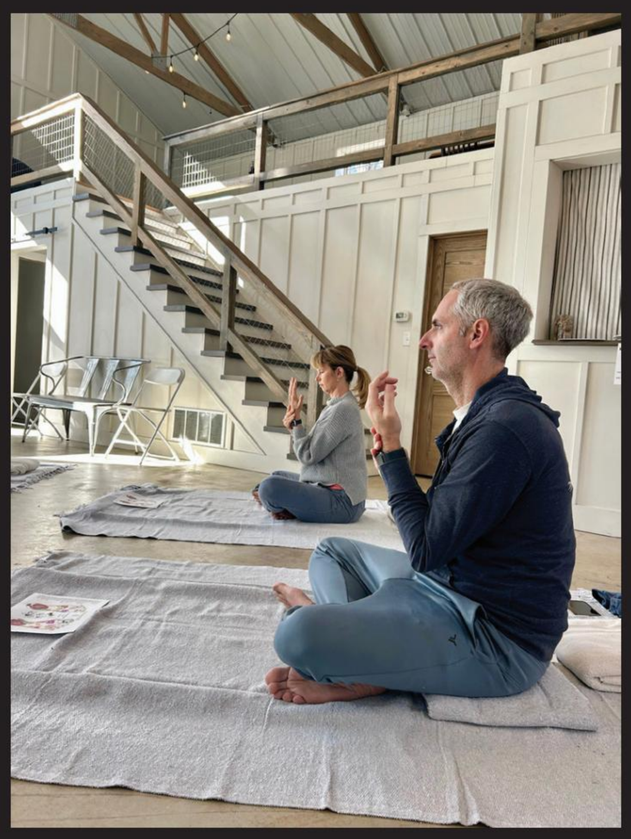
Ayurveda is a traditional Hindu healing system thousands of years old. The word itself comes from Sanskrit Ayur=life and Veda=science or knowledge: it is the "science of life."

Yoga and Ayurveda are sister sciences that support the body mind and spirit. Yogic experiences could be considered wellness practices and techniques to bring balance to mind, body and spirit.

According to Yogapedia, a marma is a point in the human body that's located at the intersections of veins, muscles, joints, bones, ligaments or tendons. These points are considered to be vital points because they are infused with prana (life force energy) and are influenced by consciousness. Stimulating marma points directly taps into the individual's reservoir of energy and promotes good health.

New recurring classes will be offered soon by Goldberry's newest team member Ferris McQuade, including Marma Mondays, Vinyasa Yoga Wednesdays and Back-to-Basics Yoga Fridays.

For more information visit www.goldberrywoods.com or www./ombralunare.com/goldberry. — STAFF REPORTS



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